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Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

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Implementation Review Group
Sixth session
Vienna, 1-5 June 2015

Draft report

I. Introduction

1. The Implementation Review Group was established by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in its resolution 3/1, entitled "Review mechanism", as an open-ended intergovernmental group of States parties to operate under its authority and report to it. The Group is to have an overview of the review process in order to identify challenges and good practices and to consider technical assistance requirements in order to ensure effective implementation of the Convention.

II. Organization of the meeting

A. Opening of the meeting

2. The Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention against Corruption held its sixth session in Vienna from 1 to 5 June 2015.

3. The first to the second, the fourth, the sixth to the eighth and the tenth meetings of the Implementation Review Group were chaired by Paulus Noa (Namibia), and the third, the fifth and the ninth meetings were chaired by Angélica Maytín Justiniani (Panama).

4. In his initial statement, the Secretary of the Conference outlined the most important issues for consideration of the Group in preparation of the 6th session of the Conference of the States parties. One of the key issues at the time of the session was the timing of the launch of the second review cycle. Moreover, in case the 2nd review cycle would be launched at the sixth session of the Conference of States parties and initiate its operations at the 7th session of the Group in June 2016, it was to be determined how to deal with States which would not have finalized their reviews by that date. A further question was how the Group wished to handle the few cases in which States parties had remained or become unresponsive to relevant

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communications by the secretariat. Furthermore, the Secretary of the Conference drew the Group's attention to the draft self-assessment checklist for the second cycle which had been made available to the Group as a conference room paper at its sixth session in all United Nations languages. Further pending issues included when and how to conclude the assessment of performance of the Mechanism, whether to make any adjustments to the Mechanism, and when and how to start collecting and sharing of information on action for the implementation of recommendations made during the first review cycle. Finally, the estimated resource requirements for the functioning of the 2nd cycle were to be discussed.

5. The representative of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union, its Member States, and Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Serbia and Ukraine. He highlighted that the EU was continuously streamlining its measures against corruption in its internal and external policies, such as the recently amended procurement rules and new legislation on the freezing, confiscation and recovery of assets. He also mentioned requirements for large companies to disclose information on anti-corruption policies, and the monitoring of relevant activities in the framework of the European Semester of Economic Governance. The speaker highlighted the merits of the Implementation Review Mechanism and referred to its challenges with regard to delays and cost efficiency. He stressed that the second review cycle had to be built on the lessons learnt from the first cycle and confirmed the will of the European Union, its Member States and the countries which associated themselves with the statement to reach improvements through constructive dialogue before and during the 6th session of the Conference. He reiterated the position in favour of a more transparent Review Mechanism in which States can make optimal use of all information, including that from non-governmental organizations. He stressed that the European Union considered that the participation of NGOs in intergovernmental bodies was in full compliance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the States parties.

6. Speaking on behalf of the African Group, the representative of Nigeria highlighted the importance of the Implementation Review Mechanism and the Implementation Review Group as a platform to share experiences and to assist countries in implementing the Convention. The review process played a crucial role in assisting States parties in identifying challenges and good practices, as well as in considering technical assistance requirements. The Group was of the view that the Terms of Reference of the Mechanism, in particular its guiding principles, continued to provide an adequate and appropriate framework. The speaker highlighted the intergovernmental nature of the Mechanism and welcomed the compromise reached in resolution 4/6. Further, the Group considered that the Review Mechanism should be funded from the Regular Budget of the United Nations. The speaker encouraged all States parties to actively participate in the second review cycle, and considered that the review of Chapters II (Preventive measures) and V (Asset recovery) of the Convention would produce tangible and useful results. He expressed satisfaction with the self-assessment checklist used during the first review cycle and held that the same methodology should be applied during the second review cycle. In addition, the speaker called for the full implementation of the resolutions of the Conference on the prevention of corruption and emphasized the importance of asset recovery as a fundamental principle of the Convention. He called upon States to expedite procedures and remove barriers to asset recovery. Furthermore, the speaker

highlighted the importance of international cooperation, including the exchange of information, collection of data, and mutual legal assistance in the fight against corruption.

B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

7. On 1 June, the Implementation Review Group adopted the following agenda as amended:

1. Organizational matters:
   (a) Opening of the session;
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Review of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
3. Performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
4. Technical assistance.
5. Financial and budgetary matters.
6. Other matters.
7. Provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Implementation Review Group.
8. Adoption of the report of the Implementation Review Group on its sixth session.

C. Attendance

8. The following States parties to the Convention were represented at the meeting of the Implementation Review Group: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and

Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

9. The European Union, a regional economic integration organization that is a party to the Convention, was represented at the meeting.

10. In accordance with Rule 1 of resolution 4/5 entitled "Participation of signatories, non-signatories, entities and intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Implementation Review Group", the Conference decided that States signatories shall be entitled to participate in the Implementation Review Group.

11. The following State signatory to the Convention was represented: Japan.

12. In accordance with Rule 2 of resolution 4/5, the Conference decided that intergovernmental organizations, Secretariat units, United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system may be invited to participate in the sessions of the Implementation Review Group.

13. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, Council of Europe, International Anti-Corruption Academy, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

14. The following Secretariat units, United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system were represented by observers: Beijing Normal University (China).

15. The Sovereign Military Order of Malta, an entity maintaining a permanent observer office at Headquarters, was represented.